

Watson, Benjamin Philip

Sept., Oct 1915

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September 14th, 1915

Captain F. P. Watson, M.D.,

No. 2 General Hospital (University of Toronto).

Dear Dr. Watson:

The time is drawing near for the opening of the session and the appearances now are that there will be a larger number of medical students than we anticipated. As a result the absence of our men is handicapping us considerably. When you left we hoped that you would be able to return to us for the winter's work inasmuch as the headship of the two departments cannot be devolved upon any one else. Dr. Clark informs me that Dr. Marlow is giving a great deal of his time to the military organisation for the Government and that Dr. Cleland is very anxious to go to the front. We have less hold upon Dr. Cleland inasmuch as he holds only a very junior position on the staff.

Dr. Clarke tells me that they miss you very much at the General Hospital and would like you to return for the winter. The Chairman of the Board has all along taken the view that the re-arrangements of the services of Gynaecology and Obstetrics in the Toronto General Hospital were such that we should have urged strongly upon you not to leave.

In view of the combined desire of both the Hospital and the University would it not be well for you to come back for the winter and return if necessary next spring? As you are aware the War Office is sending the third and fourth year students home, and we ought to give them the best instruction possible. I think that if you were to ask for leave from the War Office in these circumstances they would be willing enough to grant it. In one sense we regret that there has been so much delay in having the Hospital sent to the front though possibly you are getting more cases in England than you would in France. We have to meet a good many questions as to delay, but our sole and sufficient answer is that it has been due to a change in the plans of

the War Office and of the general strategy. This long period of patient waiting is pretty hard on every one, and at present it looks as though we have to endure some time still.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



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S.S. "MINNEWASKA."

Sunday Oct. 17th 1915-

President R. G. Helmer

Chairman of Board.

Dear President Helmer,

Your letter of Sept.

17th just reached me at Honolulu
 yesterday before we left. It had been
 held up in London as insufficiently
 addressed. The Dean's letter written
 about the same time reached me
 & since I called him & with
 him. The authorities here are very
 much against anyone returning - I
 think probably because that sort of

thing has been advised by certain
 members of our profession. Then when
 we heard that we were going to
 the Galathea we thought that
 my duty lay with the unit. You
 will hear that our members, Col.
 O'Keefe has failed us & there is
 a shortage of officers. Our work is
 likely to continue & important &
 I feel sure that you will concur in
 my decision. As the members of my staff
 are all trying I am sure the work
 will go in all right. Dr. Chastine
 ought to have plenty of time for
 himself and when he gets back
 from camp. If he fails I would
 recommend that Dr. Cleland be
 offered a good position in an

I hope that you will soon be quite
fit again.

We are just starting for our
unknown destination. Our nurses are
going on a hospital ship so they
are separated from us for a time,
but we will all meet at the base.

I feel sure that we are going
to get good work & have an
opportunity of showing that the
science of the University has not
been in vain.

With kind regards

Yrs faithfully

B. B. Watson

Associate Professorship & be given
charge of the Gynaecological work in
the hospital. Operations ought to go
along quite smoothly.

In Shorncliffe we did very
useful work. Altogether over 400
operations were performed & everything
went very smoothly. My special
work was to take charge of a
small hospital for officers. I did
quite a number of operations there.

I was going to hear from
Col. Brimmer that you your health
had not been very good lately.